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JACK ANDERSON

Chemical Arms In Terrorism Feared by CIA

The gravest "clear and present danger" posed by chemical and biological weapons is not from aggressor nations, which are restrained by fear of retaliation, but from terrorists or lunatics who decide to use these hideous weapons for blackmail or to publicize their causes.

A secret CIA "Special National Intelligence Estimate," which had the concurrence of eight other federal intelligence agencies, expresses concern that the use of poison gas by the Soviets and the Iraqis (who got the ingredients from West German companies) "could influence the attitudes of terrorists toward use of chemical and biological weapons."

The report, which was reviewed by my associate Dale Van Atta, points out that chemical-biological weapons are not yet popular among terrorists—probably because they're terrified of them. But it warns that "one successful incident involving such [lethal] agents would significantly lower the threshold of restraint on their application by other terrorists."

In fact, these weapons have been used in isolated cases by terrorists and others. In 1978, for example, a Palestinian group injected cyanide into citrus fruit exported by Israel. Huk guerrillas in the Philippines poisoned pineapples destined for export. In both cases, rapid and effective response to the discovery of the poisoned fruit prevented fatalities.

Similar incidents of "consumer terrorism" have been attributed to individuals, like the person who injected cyanide into pain-reliever capsules, and the ex-convict in Australia who threatened to infect herds with hoof-and-mouth disease last January.

The low cost of chemical-biological weapons and their relatively easy availability make them attractive to terrorists. Once they have overcome their fear of the weapons through training—by the Soviets, for example—terrorists will see the advantage of deadly agents that can be smuggled into a target area virtually immune from detection.

It costs hundreds of millions of dollars to build a nuclear bomb, whereas any reasonably intelligent biology or chemistry student can make a kilogram of deadly Type A botulin toxin for \$400, according to Pentagon consultant Joseph Douglass. He adds that with a forged research permit a terrorist could get

anthrax germs by mail for \$35. One supply house offers samples of five toxins, including the probable lethal ingredient of "yellow rain," for less than \$100.

A group of experts told a United Nations panel in 1969 that "for a large-scale operation against a civilian population, casualties might cost about \$2,000 per square kilometer with conventional weapons, \$800 with nuclear weapons, \$600 with nerve-gas weapons and \$1 with biological weapons." Inflation may have changed the figures, but not the deadly bargain ratio.

The United States is wide open to terrorists with chemical-biological operations in mind. The only federal agency that monitors the sale of deadly pathogens is the Agriculture Department. Universities and other research laboratories are poorly guarded, and the necessary knowledge is easy to gather.

"Clandestine production of chemical and biological weapons for a multiple-casualty attack generally raises no greater technical obstacles than does the clandestine production of chemical narcotics or heroin," the CIA report concludes.

Among law enforcement agencies, the Secret Service is particularly aware of the near-impossibility of protection against chemical-biological attacks. An expert told the presidential bodyguards that he could stroll through the White House with a tour group and leave behind an undetectable poison that would kill all the building's inhabitants by the next morning.

JET...Continued

Keppel said the United States detonated a bomb after the Soviet jets fired its missiles to force the Boeing 747 jet down because "otherwise it could be easily proved that the plane was on a spying mission."

The Soviet Union had maintained it was justified in destroying the plane because it was spying.

The new Soviet explanation came in circuitous fashion. Moscow radio

reported from Rio de Janeiro that there was "wide" coverage in Brazil of an interview that Keppel gave to the Italian newspaper Il Messaggero.

"The Boeing Flight 007 blew up 49 seconds after being hit by missiles from a Soviet fighter," the radio said. "This proves that the airliner was blasted by an explosive device which had been planted in it."

"The people on board knew nothing

about the device, which had to go off on a radio command from overseas in case of the mission's failure."

The new Soviet story diverges sharply from the western version of events at the time. Radar showed that after the two Soviet missiles were fired, the plane spiraled out of control in a 12-minute dive into the Sea of Japan.

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More Suez precautions taken

ADABIYA NAVAL BASE, Egypt — The Suez Canal Authority announced security precautions and punitive measures yesterday against ships carrying explosives, as a multinational search continued for mines in the Red Sea.

The international task force sweeping for mines that have damaged 18 ships since July 9 has turned up only garbage, a British naval commander told report-

ers.

Ezzat Adel, chairman of the government's Suez Canal Authority, announced that all ships transiting the waterway will have to submit a detailed manifest of their cargo 48 hours before reaching the canal.

Ships carrying undeclared explosives will be forced to pay a fine, if the explosives are discovered before they transit the canal, Mr. Adel said. If the "dangerous materials" are discovered, the ship will be banned from using the waterway for two years, Mr. Adel said.

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Special counsel charges judge erred in Pentagon whistle-blowing case

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Special counsel K. William O'Connor has charged that "the preponderance of unimpeached testimony" establishes that Pentagon audit boss Charles O. Starrett Jr. testified falsely in regard to a decision to order auditor George R. Spanton to take an unwanted transfer.

The declaration that Mr. Starrett, director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency, and two other DCAA officials "testified falsely under oath" in a Merit Systems Protection Board hearing was included in a detailed 124-page brief filed Friday attacking the recommendations of Administrative Law Judge Edward J. Reidy.

The special counsel's brief charges that Judge Reidy ignored unimpeached testimony of willful perjury by Mr. Starrett, regional DCAA director Paul Evans, and regional audit manager Arlin Tueller, concerning their harassment and intimidation of Mr. Spanton, a DCAA branch auditor.

Mr. Spanton testified that he was ordered transferred from his resident auditor post in West Palm Beach, Fla., after he recommended a criminal investigation of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. and complained publicly of the lack of support from DCAA superiors in gaining access to financial records of the huge jet-engine manufacturer.

Judge Reidy, in an opinion issued last month, recommended no disciplinary action be taken against Mr. Starrett, Mr. Evans or Mr. Tueller.

Judge Reidy concluded that Mr. O'Connor had not established "a causal connection" between Mr. Spanton's disclosures of evidence of compromise and corruption in DCAA, and the subsequent questionable order by Mr. Starrett to transfer him away from supervision of the Pratt & Whitney audits.

Special counsel action blocked the transfer, and Mr. Spanton retired last December.

Mr. O'Connor's detailed brief, accompanied by 100 pages of documents, accused Judge Reidy of making serious errors of fact and law in rulings on pre-hearing motions, in arbitrary dismissal of charges against Mr. Starrett, Mr. Evans and Mr. Tueller, and in ignoring the overwhelming "unimpeached testimony" that all three had testified falsely under oath and made false statements to government investigators.

Judge Reidy's recommendation was filled with "highly prejudicial analyt-

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U.S. charges fraud in Pentagon sales

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is suing a California defense contractor for \$4 million, claiming fraud in sales to the Pentagon of an array of parts ranging from bolts and gaskets to hinges and clamps.

The Justice Department identified those named in the suit, filed Friday in Los Angeles, as Richard Ian Silver, Tim Carson, Robert White, Charles Downn, Ian Industries Inc., Cyberma-

chine Inc., and Aerotech Industries. It said the names of Carson, White and Downn are thought to be aliases used by the 30-year-old Silver, who is believed to have controlled all three firms.

The complaint said that the defendants used fraud to receive \$1,141,539 in payments under Pentagon contracts. The government is seeking double damages totaling \$2,283,078 under the False Claims Act, plus \$1,980,000 under a law allowing a \$2,000 penalty for each of the alleged 990 false claims.

ical error," according to the brief, and therefore should be disregarded by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The special counsel accused Judge Reidy of brushing aside, or excusing, questionable testimony by the three officials as well as evidence that they had knowingly misrepresented facts relating to a labor rate report on Pratt & Whitney's "excessive" cost for production workers and executives.

Mr. O'Connor's brief noted that Judge Reidy found no basis for judging that Mr. Starrett, Mr. Evans or Mr. Tueller lacked credibility and that he characterized their testimony as representing "different versions, not untruths."

Judge Reidy's conclusion ignored evidence that the testimony by the three officials in each instance was contradicted by at least two witnesses and by documentation that included their own signed statements, the special counsel stated.

Mr. O'Connor declared that the evidence demonstrated that Mr. Starrett misrepresented the transfer of Mr. Spanton as having been cleared with law enforcement officials who were conducting a federal grand jury investigation of Pratt & Whitney in Florida.

Witnesses in the MSPB hearing testified to informing DCAA that they opposed moving Mr. Spanton, or would have opposed it vociferously if consulted, the special counsel's brief stated.

Mr. O'Connor called specific attention to the testimony of John Batson, an investigator for the defense criminal investigation section, who said he was not consulted but would have opposed the transfer of Mr. Spanton as inconvenient and because "[it] would be seen by

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U.S. Army Unit in St. Kitts

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts-Nevis, Aug. 24 (UPI) — A team of 18 United States Army officers has arrived to conduct a security training program for the St. Kitts Special Services Unit, a Government statement said Thursday. It said the officers arrived Wednesday to take part in a program "directed toward the peacekeeping role of the police" in the Caribbean nation, a former British colony.

auditors as a clear signal not to cooperate with the investigation."

Mr. O'Connor argued that Congress passed the Civil Service Reform Act in 1978 to "prohibit the use of personnel authority as a weapon of reprisal" and that the law was intended to "subject supervisors to discipline if they abused their authority in any of the prohibited ways."

Mr. O'Connor, a Reagan appointee, quoted President Reagan's comments during a speech on April 16, 1981, as "a forceful statement of administration policy" that requires the executive branch to aggressively enforce the whistle-blower protections in the law.

Mr. O'Connor argued that Judge Reidy's recommendations in the Spanton case fly in the face of President Reagan's announced policies and that the "errors of law are grievous." He argued that the MSPB should disregard Judge Reidy's recommendation if the Civil Service Reform Act is to have any meaning as an encouragement to whistle-blowers.

— Clark R. Mollenhoff